

### Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the following to the corresponding paragraphs in the specification:

[0007] **Figures 1** and **2** are perspective side views of a bird deterrent according to the inventive subject matter. **Figure 3** is an arrangement of the bird deterrent shown in **Figures 1** and **2**.

[0008] In **Figures 1, 2 and 3**, a bird deterrent 10 generally has a base 200 and a plurality of branched spikes 300. Each branched spike 300 has two top ends 320, 330, and a bottom end 340. The base 200 has a top 210, two sides 220A, 220B, and a bottom 230.

[0010] Within this broad definition, there is tremendous room for variation. For example, although a typical branched spike 300 contains a single branch point leading to two top ends, contemplated spikes (not shown) could contain branch points that lead to three or even more four top ends. It is also contemplated that a single spike can have multiple branching points, i.e., a branch could itself be further branched, such as shown in **Figure 3**. It is further contemplated that several branches may occur on one branched spike 300. For example, one branch may occur at least 3 cm from the bottom end of the branched spike, measured along the spike, and another branch may occur 8 cm from the bottom end of the same branched spike.